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PRESERVATION

Feb.-Mar. 1983 2 Montana State Historic Preservation Office

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Governor Presents Preservation Awards

At 8:00 p.m., February 3, 1983, during the Montana Historical Society's Legislative Open House, Governor Ted Schwinden presented 1981 and 1982 Historic Preservation Awards and National Register of Historic Places Certificates to almost forty Montana preservationists. He began that ceremony with remarks that constitute a clear and needed tribute to these award and certificate recipients. Moreover, his presentation was designed to inspire the rest of us to strengthen our understanding and love of Montana's special historic and prehistoric places and to improve our practical preservation skills. Finally, the address demonstrates why thanks and respect are due a Governor with so visible and thoughtful a pride in our heritage properties. In praise of award and certificate recipients, in graditude for the Governor's preservation leadership, and in an undeniable spirit of missionary zeal, we are pleased to reprint Governor Schwinden's Preservation Award Ceremony remarks.

Gov. Schwinden addresses an overflow crowd in the Haynes Auditorium before presenting 1981 and 1982 Historic Preservation Awards and National Register of Historic Places Certificates.

I do not need to preface our presentation of awards and certificates with a speech convincing you of the richness, color and importance of Montana's history. Those of you here bring with you an abiding interest in our past.

It is important, however, to spend a few minutes recalling the history to be gleaned from historic buildings and sites: from our ghost towns, our buffalo jumps, our one-room schoolhouses, homestead remnants, boarding houses, mines, and mansions. The relationship between history and historic places must be reiterated from time to time, because too many of us take for granted the incomparable historic and prehistoric resources we've been given.

If that's a fair charge, and I believe it is, it is explainable. We are a young state. We consider the Lewis and Clark Expedition as "old"; but we are not sure that our parents' past should be treated with the respect due age. Our youthfulness makes us impatient, bent on modernization. Some fear that too much attention to historic sites will hinder our efforts to be contemporary and business-like. Though we may not want to admit it, we are victimized by *National Geographic* and Williamsburg posters — encouraged by slick advertisements and magazines to think that historic value lies only in grand, colonial, one-of-a-kind buildings or ancient archaeological sites. While colonial buildings and archaeological digs do represent certain kinds of history, they are by no means exclusive.

We are honoring tonight a group of people who recognize and appreciate the diverse historic gifts Montana has to offer — people who value a wide range of Montana's resources for their own special worth.

By way of recognizing those who will receive awards and certificates, we must consider the importance of Montana values. Our historic buildings do not look like Williamsburg shops, nor should they. How fortunate we are to still be able to trace historic travel on the Mullan Road; to recall Fort Benton's days as a center of western commerce by viewing the jail, the courthouse, and the Grand Union Hotel. I am proud to live in a state where I can still be reminded of the travails and strengths of my homesteading ancestors by the cabins they built to "prove up." I am equally proud of the elegance and architectural whimsy that Montana's gold, coal and copper wealth could afford. I am reassured knowing that the Miles Building in Livingston survives to document for my grandchildren the life of that railroad town in its heyday.

If we love Montana's past, we must value the buildings and places that represent that past. If we don't, our historical interest is the stuff of romantic soap operas — not diligent scholarship or stewardship. We are false-fronted stores; sod huts; plain, solid ranch homes; tipi rings and dinosaur bones.

But loving Montana's historic resources is not enough. We must find realistic ways to use them or protect them. Protecting our historic values requires people with affection for historic sites; people who know efficient ways of siding houses;

(Continued on next page)

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The 1981 State Historic Review Board Commendations were awarded to:

Dr. Leslie B. Davis, Montana State University, for skill and energy in presenting the values and processes of archaeology to professional and lay publics.

Mrs. Floy Peterson, Helena, for effectively marshalling volunteer help for the restoration and maintenance of the Silver Creek Schoolhouse (Little Red Schoolhouse) project.

The 1981 Historic Preservation Awards for Preservation Education and Influence were presented to two recipients:

Jim McDonald, Architect, Missoula for successful advocacy of preservation principles to community leaders and businessmen unfamiliar with preservation, coupled with untiring specific project work which demonstrate to those same community leaders Jim's willingness to work as well as guide.

Kommers, McLaughlin, and Leavengood and the **City of Livingston** for, as a team, demonstrating to the community and the region a variety of ways in which preservation of buildings and neighborhoods makes sound economic sense.

The 1981 Historic Preservation Award for an Outstanding Rehabilitation Project was given to:

Granite County Commissioners for restoration and reuse of the Granite County Courthouse and Jail, combining sound energy conservation, adaptation to current office and jail standards, along with maintenance of the building's architectural quality.

The 1982 State Historic Preservation Review Board Commendations went to:

James M. Manning, Community Development Officer, Anaconda, for his efforts in harmonizing the interests of historic preservationists with other divergent plans for commercial revitalization in Anaconda.

Shirley Zupan, Red Lodge, for her quiet, powerful and successful efforts in explaining the effects and values of National Register listing to Red Lodge citizens.

The 1982 Historic Preservation Award for Preservation Education and Influence was presented to:

Janet Cornish, Butte-Silver Bow Development Office, for her skill in explaining and demonstrating to planning and business communities around the state how their interests could be served by attention to reuse of existing historic buildings.

The 1982 Historic Preservation Award for an Outstanding Rehabilitation Project went to:

Scott Hudson, Billings Pipes and Pizza Restaurant, for commercial rehabilitation of the Carlin Hotel in which serious attention was paid to retention of significant interior character along with changes needed for a new business.

Gov. Schwinden . . .

who are familiar with tax breaks for preservation; who know when not to worry about the slow "melt" of ghost towns, who can organize volunteers, explain procedures and write reports.

The people we are honoring tonight represent a remarkable blend of interest and pragmatism. They are people who, in a variety of ways, demonstrate their appreciation for buildings and sites distinctive to our communities, our state or our region. These award recipients set an example for us in researching, fundraising, problem-solving, advertising — in finding commonsense, conscientious ways to accomplish preservation.

Please join me in honoring Montana preservationists . . . and celebrating their commitment.

The National Register, as many of you know, is a list of properties that are significant for their association with important people or events, their ability to provide us with information about the past, or their distinctive, typical or unusual design. Register listing encourages preservation, but does not force owners to take any particular action. Register listing does, however, rely on the active cooperation of property owners. Register listing reflects the stewardship and care owners have afforded those properties. The result benefits us all.

Montana Historic Preservation Award, and Review Board Commendation winners, are selected by the staff of the Historic Preservation Office within the Montana Historical Society and by the State Historic Preservation Review Board. The board is a group of nine Montanans with interest and expertise in our history. I have appointed them to provide oversight and counsel to the Preservation Office staff.

State Historic Preservation Review Board Commendations recognize individuals who have made specific, visible contributions to preservation in particular projects. Historic Preservation Awards are given in two categories: first, for preservation education and influence throughout the state by helping a broad range of Montanans understand why it is important to respect older properties; and second, for an exemplary historic building rehabilitation project.

Although there are many Montanans who deserve recognition, I am grateful for the opportunity to present awards to these special stewards of our heritage.

Gov. Schwinden makes presentations to (from left to right): David Rivines, who accepted a National Register certificate for Dr. Myles White, owner of the George Miles House in Miles City; Margaret Brown, a National Register certification for the One-Room Schoolhouses of Gallatin County; and Floy Peterson, a 1981 Review Board commendation for work on the Silver Creek Schoolhouse near Helena.

Main Street film is here

The Preservation Office just acquired a copy of the film *Main Street, USA,* produced by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We are anxious to make it available to business, civic, education, and preservation groups throughout the state. Whenever the economics and timing of travel permit, the office will also send a staff member with the film to talk with you about preservation and main street revitalization. The film concentrates on three mid-western, mid-sized community main streets and the changes that are accepted and rejected in them. A variety of community and business leaders from those towns describe their widely varying judgments of the value of historic associations and architecture in relationship to the financial stability of their business centers. The movie is not a mood piece. Nor does it naively claim that building preservation is the answer to all of a main street's problems. It concentrates on considering good design as one element of a four-part program for revitalization, along with organization, promotion, and economic restructuring. The film confronts directly the problems of sustaining America's main streets in the face of many pressures and then looks at whether good care of historic buildings hinders or contributes to main street revitalization.

If you are interested in showing the film, please contact Lon Johnson, Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts, Helena, Montana, 59620, or phone 449-4584.

Preservation Week: Time to Plan

1983 Historic Preservation Week has been scheduled for May 8 through May 14. Its primary sponsor, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, suggests as a focus for the week the theme "Preservation Is Housing America."

The Trust, along with many state and local organizations, has sponsored Preservation Week for much of the last decade. Like all commemorative weeks and days, Preservation Week is what we — or you — make of it. We may see it either in the context of symbolic recognition, or as a chance to accomplish activities and programs on which we've been procrastinating.

If you are interested in planning activities in your community to celebrate Preservation Week, consider a wide range of possibilities: walking tours, programs for civic organizations, classroom visits, special tours of existing house museums, a workshop on filling out National Register forms given by someone familiar with the process, etc. We cannot bring you all those programs from Helena. But we are glad to talk with you as you make plans for that week and assist with programs as our schedules allow.

Finally, if you do plan Preservation Week activities, please let us know what they are. In the May-June newsletter we would like to be able to describe the events that did occur.

Update on Federal Grant Funds

If you are interested in applying for Federal Historic Preservation Grant funds, we urge you to do so now. As of February 1, the Preservation Office knew that, in spite of President Reagan's recommendation for zero funding, Congress had appropriated preservation monies for state activities, that the Department of the Interior had developed an apportionment formula, and that Montana was likely to be awarded $353,041. Final awarding of that sum to the state occurs after additional application materials are submitted by the Preservation Office to the National Park Service and are approved.

In order to make our application more specific and to speed the commitment of funds awarded to us, we urge you to talk with us about and apply for those federal preservation monies. Funds approved by Congress can again be used only for *survey and planning* projects. Congress did not approve the use of federal dollars for actual rehabilitation projects. However, survey and planning projects can be used for a wide range of preservation projects including:

—community or rural architectural, historical, or archaeological survey work;
—community or neighborhood historic planning and feasibility studies;
—development of materials which explain or illustrate preservation projects and goals;
—preparation of plans and specifications by an architect in anticipation of actual rehabilitation in a project that will spur private investment.

In each project, federal dollars need to be matched with state, local, or private funds or the donation of labor or materials.

If you are interested at all in preservation funds we urge you to contact the Preservation Office (449-4584) to discuss your ideas, to secure application materials, and to learn more about the grant program.

Recent Montana Additions to the National Register

The following Montana properties have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, all in January 1983.

Deer Lodge County
Barich Block, Anaconda.
Davidson Block, Anaconda.
Gallatin County
Gallatin County Jail, Bozeman.
Bozeman National Fish Hatchery.
Upper Madison School (addendum to One-Room Schoolhouses of Gallatin County), near Three Forks.
Silver Bow County
Silver Bow Brewery Malt House, Butte.
Yellowstone County
Antelope Stage Station, Broadview.

The Superintendent's Residence and Washhouse at the Bozeman National Fish Hatchery are the only two original buildings at Montana's first national fish hatchery, constructed in 1896.

Getting onto the Register

If you are interested in listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places, please call or write us. The process is not as difficult as you may imagine. The Register is designed to include a broad cross-section of older properties. The Preservation Office can send you immediately a packet of material on the Register, on the results of Register listing, and on researching older properties.

If you have already begun working on a National Register nomination, we remind you that draft nomination materials must be received *60* days before a Review Board meeting, if you want them considered at that meeting. The time lapse is needed to accomplish legal notification measures, to edit and type the material in final form, and to give Review Board members an opportunity to read it before a meeting.

Review Board Meeting Schedule for 1983:
May 6, 1983
August 5, 1983
November 4, 1983.

Breweries were very quick to be established in Montana's early mining camps. The malt house at the old Silver Bow Brewery in Butte was constructed ca. 1886. In this building, the barley was malted (germinated) and then kiln-dried. It is now used as a residence.

A stop along the Billings to Lavina route, the Antelope Stage Station was built in 1882 and served travelers until the Great Northern Railway line was completed along Alkali Creek in 1908.

What Montana's Preservation Office Offers You

Please call or stop by the Preservation Office (or direct others to us) if you would like:

- the latest information on how or whether to apply for Federal Historic Preservation Grant monies. You can inquire about either funds for actual rehabilitation (which have been nonexistent the last two years, but might return) or funding for surveys, preservation plans, and feasibility studies.
- information on the National Register of Historic Places program, including:
  - —what it means to have a property listed in the Register
  - —what kinds of properties qualify for Register listing
  - —what kinds of information we need to review a Register nomination
  - —who reviews and approves Register nominations
  - —how long it takes to get a property listed
- guidance on when and how to take advantage of Federal tax incentives for the rehabilitation of commercial properties listed in the National Register
- technical advice on how to maintain, care for, or rehabilitate older buildings and sites — be they homes, businesses, or public properties. We are able to provide direct assistance in many instances, or can give you written information or sources if we do not have the information ourselves. A great deal of research is already available on questions such as how to undertake energy retrofit of historic buildings so that it does not damage historic character; the effects of re-siding historic properties; what problems to remember in reusing historic chimneys, etc.
- explanations of what an architectural, historical, or archaeological inventory is and whether it would be of use to your area.
- any of our previous publications, including the Preservation supplement to the *Montana Post*
- information on whether a federal or state agency might be affecting significant cultural resources in any of their projects or in projects which they approve

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